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SITUATION INFORMATION REPORT

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

Solidarity Day 19 June 1968

Its Objectives And Who Will Attend

As of 10 June 1968: There is no definite information which has been reported indicating which groups are coming to participate in the mass demonstration on 19 June 1968.

During this past week there has been considerable disagreement among the leaders of the Poor People's Campaign over the objectives which the planned mass demonstration on 19 June in WDC is to support.

Bayard RUSTIN, originally named on 19 May 1968 to direct the mass demonstration, attempted on 3 June 1968 to delineate clear understandable objectives which he felt would be attainable during this session of Congress. These were:

- a. A million Federally financed "socially useful career jobs" and public works.
- b. Repeal of the welfare "freeze" and last years social security bill.
- c. Restoration of "budget cuts" in the Elementary-Secondary Education Act and Economic Opportunity Act, with special stress on bilingual education, summer jobs, and Head Start.

These objectives have been reported to be legitimate demands of the poor people and attractive enough to draw support in the demonstration from the following organizations:

- a. The National Association For the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

The NAACP is the largest, oldest and most conservative of all civil rights groups. Roy WILKINS is the director. The NAACP has termed attempts to merge

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the civil rights movement with the peace movement as "a serious tactical mistake", noting that civil rights battles should be fought "on their own merits", irrespective of the state of war or of peace in the world.

b. The National Urban League

The National Urban League stresses economic progress for Negroes in housing, education, jobs and so on. The director of the National Urban League is Whitney YOUNG. The organization has dictated the use of persuasion rather than pressure and economic sanction in the realization of its objectives. In late 1966, however, the Associate Director of the W.D.C. Urban League advocated a militant solution to the problems of big city ghettos replacing reasonableness with demands, picketing, boycotts and court actions. Despite this, the militants were unsuccessful, according to press reports, and the moderates remained in control of the National Urban League.

c. The National Council of Churches

The National Council of Churches represents 34 protestant and Eastern Orthodox denominations with about 42,000,000 members. On 7 June 1968 the National Council of Churches adopted a policy approving peaceful civil disobedience as a "valid instrument" with those who seek to correct injustice. The Rev. Truman F. DOUGLASS, Chairman of the Council's Division of Christian Life and Mission, said that this did not mean that the National Council of Churches approved of draft resistance. He said the Council might disagree with the action of an individual but it will defend his right to follow his conscience.

d. The National Student Association (NSA)

The NSA is a liberal organization of college students which claims representation on 350 campuses. The international office of NSA was formerly of interest to this Agency.

e. United States Youth Council (USYC)

The United States Youth Council, formerly known as the Young Adult Council, is affiliated with, among other organizations, the World Assembly of Youth (WAY). The Young Adult Council and the World Assembly of Youth has formerly been of interest to this Agency in its youth and student programs. Its president is James D. FOWLER.

The United States Youth Council attempts to provide a united coordinating force among youth and student groups; to promote activities by them in the fields of human rights and social justice in this country and international cooperation abroad.

f. The American Jewish Committee (AJC)

The AJC, whose executive vice-president is John SLAYSON, consists of 22,000 members. It coordinates programs of education and human relations; combats bigotry; and protects religious and civil rights.

g. The Roman Catholic Hierarchy

Non-specific

h. Labor Unions

Non-specific references. However, it has been reported that the United Automobile Workers (UAW) planned to send some 2,000 representatives in support of the Poor People's objectives as announced by Bayard RUSTIN on 3 June.

RUSTIN'S announced objectives of the 19 June march demonstration led to criticism by Poor People's Campaign leaders, notably Hosea WILLIAMS, the direct action leader in WDC.

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and James BEVEL, one of ABERNATHY'S aides and SCLC Washington, D. C. Campus Coordinator. Stanley LEVISON and Harry BELMONT were reported by the FBI to be highly critical of RUSTIN'S objectives. LEVISON told ABERNATHY that RUSTIN made no mention of a guaranteed income. Militants were upset over the fact that RUSTIN did not relate the objectives of the Poor People's Campaign to the Vietnamese war which the younger more militant Negroes have been advocating by the use of violence-filled rhetoric in their pursuit of non-violence. These younger groups have linked poverty, racism and opposition to the war in Vietnam in what has been called a "sick society".

RUSTIN consequently resigned his position as March Coordinator on Friday, 7 June. On the same day, ABERNATHY named Sterling TUCKER, Director of the Washington Urban League, as the new director of the March. TUCKER accepted this position on Sunday, 9 June 1968 in the "how call" sought for support of the 19 June mass demonstration. TUCKER described this new position as an almost impossible job. In an attempt to appeal to both the moderates as well as the militants and other doubtful supporters, TUCKER announced a revision of RUSTIN'S demands upon Congress to include:

- a. A lessening of the war and world violence and
- b. Establishment of strong gun control.

In an effort to allay the fears of moderate sympathizers, TUCKER also announced a commitment by the leaders of the Poor People's Campaign to avoid:

- a. Acts of violence, and
- b. Acts of civil disobedience.

According to reports, the afore mentioned amendments to the objectives of the March as announced by RUSTIN, may be designed to attract the support of such organizations as the Congress of Racial Equality led by Roy KEENE and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee of which the most notable member is Stokely CARMICHAEL.

The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)

The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was established in the Spring of 1942 by James FARMER and Jim ROBINSON. Originally it was considered one of the more moderate "civil rights organizations". Since the early 1960's, it has gradually increased in militancy and has become increasingly separatist, black supremacist and ideologically aligned with the so-called new left. CORE claims 80,000 members in 200 chapters.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was organized in April 1960 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Originally its claimed purpose was to bring about the integration of southern "lunch counters and movie theaters." However, in recent years SNCC has deviated grossly from this primary purpose and has been in the forefront of a number of more recent violent racial disturbances in the country. SNCC has:

1. aligned itself with the Havana-based Latin American Solidarity Organization (LASO), a Castro-led network of guerrilla fighters whose primary aim is to export revolution in Latin America and among the Negro population in America;
2. Openly assailed Zionism and accused the Israelis of committing atrocities against the Arabs;
3. Openly exhorted Negroes to refuse to be drafted into armed services of the U.S.;
4. Through its immediate past chairman, Stokely CARMICHAEL, aligned itself organizationally with the so-called Black Liberation Movement of the U.S. and has called for the "overthrow" of the present government and the start of "the real Revolution" in the U.S.

As of 11 June 1968: According to a Special Information Report on Friday, 7 June, a head count was taken at a meeting of the Washington Ethical Society to determine how many were interested in attending the March on 19 June. It was also reported that the New York Ethical Cultural Society plans to send a bus load of members to attend the 19 June mass demonstration. Tentative plans are that the group from New York will meet at the Washington Ethical Society and proceed to the staging area on the day of the March.

The Washington Ethical Society (WES)

According to its own statements, the Washington Ethical Society is a liberal, religious fellowship founded upon the views that the development of ethical values is properly the central and unifying purpose of a free and humane faith. It was founded in 1913 and is a member of the American Ethical Union which in turn is responsible for the promotion and coordination of the affairs of national ethical societies such as the Washington Ethical Society and the New York Society of Ethical Culture. The Washington Ethical Society has supported many of the demonstrations and marches agitating for peace in Vietnam. It recently supported the mobilization for peace demonstrations which took place in April 1967. The local leader of the Washington Ethical Society is Edward L. ERICSON.

At the Friday, 7 June meeting of the Washington Ethical Society, there were a group of flyers entitled "A Call To National Action In Support Of the Poor People's Campaign" which those in attendance at Friday's meeting were being urged to take and distribute throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area. A xeroxed copy of this flyer is attached.

Seven student leaders, under the auspices of the National Student Association, pledged a "new youth commitment" to end poverty and predicts "at least 25,000 students will join the 19 June mass demonstration".

SOURCE: Washington Star dated 11 June 1968

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/2001 BY 60322 UCBAW

Probably reliable

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Rev. AL KENNEDY on 11 June stated that a meeting will be held in Washington later this week by leaders of various national groups in order to set up a support committee for the 19 June March.

SOURCE: Washington Star dated 11 June 1968

AUTHENTICATION: Possibly reliable

All sources are being utilized to attempt to identify specifically the groups which will definitely participate in the 19 June march demonstration. When this information is ascertained, it will be reported promptly.

Reports to date indicate that the Poor People's Campaign may very well have a difficult time to organize a large mass demonstration in the 9 days left to Sterling TUCKER and his assistant, David P. RUSK, the 27-year-old son of the Secretary of State.

In an editorial in the Washington Star dated 11 June 1968, the statement is attributed to Sterling TUCKER that "success of the march will not be determined by numbers in any event but the spirit of the organization and by the manner in which it is carried out".

Stanley LEVISON recently stated that he feels the Campaign will have to change its tactics in view of the assassination of Senator Robert F. KENNEDY. LEVISON feels any kind of militant action would now be critical.

SOURCE: FBI cable dated 10 June 1968

AUTHENTICATION: Source of the FBI who has furnished reliable information in the past
